

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /040 W
-----072158 220911Z /21
R 220750Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4653

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, KU
SUBJ: CIRCULATION OF TRACT ACCUSING GOK OF UNFAIR EXPROPRIATION
OF PROPERTY

REF: KUWAIT 3355

1. SUMMARY: REF REPORTED CIRCULATION IN SPRING 1978 OF A
POLITICAL TRACT WHICH ATTACKED THE RULING AL-SABAH FAMILY, IN
PARTICULAR THE AMIR. WE HAVE RECENTLY COME INTO
POSSESSION OF ANOTHER TRACT WHICH, THIS TIME, CONCENTRATES ON
ATTACKING THE FULING FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT FOR EARLIER
EXPROPRIATION FROM OTHER KUWAITIS OF REAL ESTATE NOW WORTH
A FORTUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ESSENCE, THE WRITER TRIES TO MAKE THE CASE THAT
KUWAITI SEAMEN, OIL COMPANY OWRKERS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
WERE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF WHEN THE GOK EXPROPRIATED THEIR
PROPERTIES IN THE PAST AT THE COMPARATIVELY LOW PRICES
WHICH PREVAILED AT THE TIME. HE SAYS, AND IS UNDOUBTEDLY
CORRECT, THAT THE EXPROPRIATED LAND IS NOW INVALUABLE.

3. THE WRITER DENIGRATES THE RULING FAMILY WHICH HE
CLAIMS, IN THE EARLY DAYS, LIVED OFF A SMALL SHARE OF
INCOME ALLOTTED TO THEM FROM THE SALE OF LOCAL PEARLS.
THE COMMENCEMENT OF OIL INCOME AFTER WORLD WAR II CHANGED
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THIS SITUATION, AND ALLOWED THE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE
FROM ITS CITIZENS LARGE AREAS OF LAND WHICH HAVE
MULTIPLIED IN VALUE. HE CONCLUDES BY CHARGING THAT THE
GOVERNMENT BENEFITTED IN A "CROOKED WAY" AT THE EXPENSE
OF ITS CITIZENS.

4. THIS PARTICULAR DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY "THE NUCLEUS

OF DEMOCARTIC PARTY FOUNDERS." THOUGH BY NO MEANS CERTAIN, THE WRITER MAY BE TRYING TO CLAIM IDENTIFICATION WITH AN EMBRYONIC GROUP OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERALS WHO WERE CONSIDERING ORGANIZING A POLITICAL PARTY IN 1974. THAT GROUP WAS HEADED BY DR.ABDULLAH AL-NAFISI, THEN A PROFESSOR AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY. AT PRESENT, NAFISI HAS LOST HIS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY. HE HAS JUST PUBLISHED A BOOK IN LONDON CALLED "KUWAIT: THE OTHER FACE" WHICH IS PURPORTEDLY CRITICAL OF THE GOK, AND WHICH IS BANNED IN KUWAIT.

5. THE TRACT, SUPPLIED BY A LOCAL JOURNALIST TO THE PAO, IS IN ARABIC, UNDATED, AND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED CHIEFLY TO LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS. IT HAS NOT BEEN PRINTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, NOR HAS THE EMBASSY HEARD OF ITS EXISTENCE FROM ANY OTHER SOURCES. THE LOCAL JOURNALIST OBSERVED THAT THIS TRACT, UNLIKE PREVIOUS ATTACKS ON THE RULING FAMILY, IS POORLY WRITTEN - PERHAPS PURPOSELY SO. IT IS SAID TO HAVE APPEARED SOON AFTER THE AMIR MADE A PUBLICIZED VISIT TO THE "OLD SEAMEN" OF KUWAIT.

6. COMMENT: THE TRACT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY SOMEONE WHO FEELS HE HAS NOT GOTTEN HIS FAIR SHARE OF KUWAIT'S BURGEONING REAL ESTATE PRICES. IT LACKS ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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TYPE OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, AND BEARS NO STYLISTIC SIMILARITY TO THE REFERENCED DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS ISSUED BY AN UNKNOWN GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE "DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL YOUTH." THAT EARLIER DOCUMENT IS A MUCH BETTER WRITTEN, MORE COGENT ATTACK ON THE AMIR AND CALLS FOR A RECONVENING OF THE KUWAITI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, LAND NATIONALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT04653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780342-1128
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780838/aaaabfpa.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d7d635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUWAIT 3355
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1663425
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIRCULATION OF TRACT ACCUSING GOK OF UNFAIR EXPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d7d635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014